
Digital Public Infrastructure and Sustainable Development

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DPIs are increasingly important in today's economy

- Pathways to enable delivery of services to citizens
- Importance to sustainable development goals
 - Core principles: Safety, security, inclusion, and human rights

DPIs are a set of shared digital building blocks powered by interoperable open standards or specifications. DPIs act as digital building blocks to drive innovation, inclusion, and competition at population scale.

Digital Public Goods (DPGs)—an institutionalized sharing of “open-source software, open data, open AI models, open standards, and open content” between government and other actors

Taking India's example on DPIs

The Unified Payments Interface

- As of December 2022, there were over 7.82 billion transactions per month on the UPI network by over 260 million unique users
- Interoperable, free to use
- High uptake
- Government system exists but highest market share with private entities, including Google

Open Network for Digital Commerce

- Interoperable
- New, finding uptake
- In competition with Big Tech platforms like Amazon, Flipkart?

Guiding principles for governance can look like below

- Public - equal and non-discriminatory access
- Safeguard citizens' rights and privacy while promoting responsible data use and management
- Set of common standards,
 - To enable trust, transparency, and accountability in the ecosystem
 - Open, inclusive, secure, interoperable (Our Common Agenda)
- Institutional capacity and expertise

Some questions that need adequate consideration

- Are DPIs really 'public'
 - Who may be denied service, or excluded
- Safeguards against profiling
 - Combination of different DPIs - eSign, eKYC, Digilocker and UPI, new insurance companies in India can open accounts, enter contracts, disburse/collect money, and issue insurance - how does one protect against negative profiling in this case?
- Contextual considerations
 - Sector specific understanding - critical view of why something worked in a sector, can it be replicated?
- Why is this DPI needed? What does it solve for?

Laying the groundwork for regional cooperation

How to do this right?

- Partnership management
 - Who we bring on to build the basic infrastructure
 - Example of iSpirt withdrawing from the ABDM
 - To bring diverse groups together
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